

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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SECDEF WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY O LO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD
ASD WRIGHT LATTERSON AFB OH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, MILI, DA
SUBJECT: PUBLIC CONFUSION ON F-16 COST

REF: COPENHAGEN 2049

SUMMARY. DANISH PUBLIC CONFUSED BY STATEMENT OF DANISH
PARLIAMENTARIAN CONCERNING INCREASED COST OF F-16
AIRCRAFT. END SUMMARY

1.ON DANISH TELEVISION NEWS MONDAY, 4 APRIL (PARA. 9,
REFTEL) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLKETING DEFENSE COMMITTEE
PALLE SIMONSEN (CONSERVATIVE) ALSO STATED THAT DEFENSE
MINISTER MOLLER WOULD HAVE TO GO BEFORE PARLIAMENT SOON
TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COVER THE INCREASED COST
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OF F-16 AIRCRAFT. THE STATEMENT WAS APPARENTLY ERRON-
EOUS AND WILL SERVE ONLY TO CONFUSE FURTHER THE DANISH
PUBLIC ABOUT AN ALREADY COMPLICATED ISSUE.

2. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE DANISH MILITARY SOURCES,
THE TRUTH IS THAT THE INCREASE IN PRICE OF THE F-16
WILL NOT REQUIRE MOLLER TO ASK PARLIAMENT FOR ADDI-

TIONAL FUNDS. THAT PART OF THE PRICE INCREASE NOT
ATTRIBUTABLE TO NORMAL INFLATION SUCH AS ADDITIONAL
GROUND EQUIPMENT, INCREASED TAXES, UNEXPECTED LOADING

ETC. WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF THE MATERIEL INVESTMENT
PORTION OF THE DEFENSE BUDGETS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW 4 YEAR DEFENSE AGREEMENT. THIS
MEANS THAT DEFENSE WILL SACRFICE PLANNED PURCHASES
OF, E.G., HELICOPTERS, GUNS AND BOATS TO HELP PAY
FOR THE F-16 AIRCRAFT. THOSE PRICE INCREASES CONTRI-
BUTABLE TO INFLATION WILL BE OBTAINED FROM A FUND
BUDGETED FOR THIS PURPOSE AS PART OF THE FINANCE
MINISTRY'S PORTION OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET.

3. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOES PLAN TO GO BEFORE
THE PARLIAMENT ON 13 APRIL TO REQUEST PERMIS-
SION TO MOVE UNUSED DEFENSE FUNDS FROM THE PAST
FISCAL YEAR'S (1976) BUDGET TO THIS FISCAL YEAR'S
BUDGET. THE REQUEST IS REQUIRED BY DANISH LAW, AND
IS EXPECTED TO BE ROUTINELY APPROVED.

COMMENT: AMBASSADOR TALKED TO OFFICIALS IN THE
MOD TODAY REQUESTING THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO
PRESENT A TRUE PICTURE TO THE DANISH PUBLIC OF THE
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING F-16 PRICE INCREASES AND
OFF-SET AGREEMENTS.

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